

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Fixing device comprising:
 - (I) a surgical cable (~~16, 416~~) having a first end and a second end; and
 - (II) at least a first fixing plate (~~2, 402~~) and a second (~~4, 404~~)-fixing plate having [[a]] first and (~~6, 406~~) resp. second (~~8, 408~~) central holes and [[a]] first (~~10, 410~~) resp. second rings (~~12, 412~~) ring-surrounding said first and (~~6, 406~~) resp. second (~~8, 408~~) holes, respectively, wherein each of the first and second fixing plates has a [[the]] circumference (~~20, 420, resp. 22, 422~~) of each fixing plate forming an outer edge of [[its]] the first and second rings, respectively, and wherein the first and second rings have ring (~~10, 410, resp. 12, 412~~) and an inner edge of its ring (~~10, 410, resp. 12, 412~~) being adjacent to and surrounding the first and second holes thereof, respectively, wherein (~~6, 406, resp. 8, 408~~) it surrounds, the first fixing plate is (~~2, 402~~) being in a stacked position on top of the second plate so as to define (~~4, 404~~) leaving a gap (~~26, 426~~) between the first and second fixing plates, (~~2, 402, 4, 404~~) and wherein the first and second central holes (~~6, 406, resp. 8, 408~~) at least partly overlap overlapping each other, wherein in the ring of
- one of the first and second rings of the first and second fixing plates has a continuous groove formed in a (~~2, 402 resp. 4, 404~~) in its surface of the first and second rings, respectively, which faces facing the other of the first and second fixing plates, wherein the (~~4, 404 resp. 2, 402~~) a continuous groove extends (~~50, 450~~) is present running between the outer edge and the inner edge of said one of the first and second rings, and wherein

the other of the first and second rings of the first and second ~~in the ring of the~~
~~other~~ fixing plate has a ridge formed in a surface thereof which faces and
matches the continuous groove, (4, 404 resp. 2, 402) in its surface facing
~~the one of the fixing plates (2, 402 resp. 4, 404) a ridge (52, 452) is~~
~~present matching with said groove (50, 452), and wherein~~
at least one end of the surgical cable follows (16, 416) following a continuous
trajectory running as part (j) from outside the outer edges underneath the
second ring ~~[[(12)]]~~ up to the second hole ~~[[(8)]]~~, bending upward into a
first upward part (a) running through the second and the first holes, ~~(8, 408~~
~~resp. 6, 406), a bend to an outward part (b) running across the first ring~~
~~(10, 410) in the direction of its outer edge (20, 420), a downward part (c)~~
outside said outer edge ~~(20, 420) running in a direction opposite to the~~
upward part (a), a part (d) running through the hole ~~(8, 408) of the second~~
ring ~~(12, 412), part (d) at its one end being connected to a trajectory part~~
(e) running through the gap ~~(26, 426) between the first and second~~ fixing
plates ~~(2, 402 resp. 4, 404) and at its other end being connected to a~~
trajectory part (f, g) running underneath the second ring ~~(12, 412), and~~
wherein the other end of the cable is (16, 416) also being connected to the
first and second fixing plates (2, 402 resp. 4, 404).

2. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein part (c) further runs
outside the outer edge ~~[[(12)]]~~ of the second ring ~~[[(4)]]~~ and is connected to one
end of part (d) through trajectory part (f) running underneath the second ring
~~[[(12)]]~~ from ~~[[its]]~~ the outer edge of the second ring to the second central (22) to
~~its hole thereof [[(8)]]~~ and the other end of part (d) is immediately connected to
part (e) running through the gap ~~[[(26)]]~~ between the first and second fixing plates
in an outward direction and ending outside the first and second fixing plates in a
cable end ~~[[(28)]]~~.

3. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein the trajectory parts are in the order (a), (b), (c), (e), (d), followed by trajectory part (g) running underneath the second ring [[[(412)]] from the second central hole [[[(408)]] to the outer edge of the second ring [[[(422)]] and ending outside the first and second fixing plates in a cable end [[[(428)]].
4. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein (j) and (a) are connected through an additional complete loop, beginning at the end of (j), running in an upward direction through first and second central holes, and ~~(8, 408)~~ and ~~(6, 406)~~, then in an outward direction across the first ring ~~(10, 410)~~, then in a downward direction along outer edges ~~(20, 420 and 22, 422)~~, then in an inward direction underneath the second ring ~~(12, 412)~~ and finally connecting to trajectory (a).
5. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein another ~~the other~~ end of the cable also follows one of said trajectories.
6. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1, further comprising wherein the other end ~~(530, 630) is fixed to~~ a tensioning device that is connected to the first and second fixing rings, wherein another end of the cable is fixed to the tensioning device.
7. (currently amended) Method for tying ~~objects together~~, in particular for fixing bone parts together, comprising the steps of applying a fixing device according to claim 1 around the bone parts ~~(17, 417)~~ to be fixed, followed by drawing the ends ~~(28, 428, 30, 430)~~ of the cable to tension the cable around the bone parts to the tension required to fix the bone parts.
8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 7, which comprises inserting wherein a bar ~~(14, 414) is inserted~~ between the fixing plates ~~(2, 402, 4, 404)~~ before the cable is tensioned and removing the bar ~~removed~~ after the cable has been tensioned.

9. (currently amended) Method for tying ~~together objects~~, in particular for fixing bone parts together, comprising the steps of applying a bone fixing device according to claim 6 around the bone parts to be fixed, followed by drawing said one end ~~(528, 628)~~ of the cable to tension the cable around the bone and then tensioning the cable to the tension required to fix the bone parts by means of the tensioning device ~~(536, 646)~~.
10. (currently amended) Set of two fixing plates ~~(2 resp. 4)~~ each respectively having a central hole ~~(6 resp. 8)~~ and a ring ~~(10 resp. 12)~~ surrounding said hole, wherein ~~(6 resp. 8)~~, the circumference of each fixing plate has a circumference ~~(2 resp. 4)~~ forming an outer edge ~~(20 resp. 22)~~ of its of the respective ring ~~(10 resp. 12)~~ and wherein an inner edge of the respective ring is ~~(of its ring (10 resp. 12) being~~ adjacent to the hole ~~(6 resp. 8)~~ it surrounds, wherein [[in]] a surface of the ring ~~(10 resp. 12)~~ of one of the fixing plates includes ~~(2 resp. 4)~~ in its surface a continuous groove ~~(52) is present~~ running between the outer edge ~~(20 resp. 22)~~ and the inner edge of said ring ~~(10 resp. 12)~~ and wherein a surface of [[in]] the ring of another ~~(12 resp. 10) of the other fixing plate includes~~ ~~(4 resp. 2)~~ in its ~~surface~~ a ridge ~~(50) is present~~ matching with said groove [[[(52)]]].
11. (previously presented) Set of at least two fixing plates according to claim 10 and a surgical cable fitted for constructing a fixing device.
12. (previously presented) Surgical cable prepared for application in a fixing device according to claim 1.